

C. Remarks

The claims are 1, 7-12, and 18-22 with claims 1 and 12 being independent. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to clarify the invention. Claims 2-6 and 13-17 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants submit that the amendments made herein are fully supported throughout the application as filed (see, e.g., original claims 5 and 16); accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Reconsideration of the present claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5, 7-12, 16 and 18-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Helterline. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

All previously advanced arguments against the Examiner's application of Helterline against the present claims are incorporated by reference herein. In addition, Applicants would like to bring the Examiner's attention to one key distinction between Helterline and the present invention. Namely, Helterline discloses that a printing condition is judged based on an image that has been already printed; by contrast, a printing condition of the present invention is judged based on image data to be printed. What is more, in Helterline, image density is regulated according to the judged printing condition. In the present invention, printing conditions are based on dot size. These features of the present invention are not disclosed or suggested by Helterline.

Accordingly, the present invention is not anticipated by Helterline, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §102 rejection premised upon it.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance; at the very least, it reduces the number of pending claims and simplifies the issues for appeal. Its entry is therefore believed proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection, as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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